

Understanding How Colleges & Universities View Communication NC & Literature 1 Units (SCQF level 6)

Communication NC and Literature 1 may be considered an alternative to Higher English for entry to some colleges and universities in Scotland. Each college or university sets its own entry requirements.

This guide highlights examples of how different universities and colleges treat Communication NC and Literature 1. It was compiled in January 2025, based on direct conversations with admissions staff at colleges and universities across Scotland.

Please note: This information is for guidance only and may change. Always check with the institution directly for the most up-to-date admissions policies.



Where Communications NC and Literature 1 units (SCQF level 6) ARE usually accepted as an alternative to Higher English:

College / University	Accepted	More Information
Fife College	✓ Yes	Accepted as an alternative to Higher English where Higher English is listed within the entry criteria for a course
University of Glasgow	✓ Yes	Accepted as an alternative to Higher English, however they cannot say at what grade.
University of the Highlands and Islands	✓ Yes	Accepted as a C at Higher
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland	✓ Yes	Accepted as an equivalent to Higher English.
University of the West of Scotland	✓ Yes	Accepted as an alternative to Higher English, however they cannot say at what grade.

Continued over:



Where Communications NC and Literature 1 units (SCQF level 6) MAY be accepted as an alternative to Higher English on a Case-by-Case basis:

College	Accepted	More Information
Abertay University	⚠ Case-by-case	Higher English is not required for undergraduate entry. Abertay accepts NC's as a qualification, however National 5 English at grade C is required. Contact Student Recruitment Office sro@abertay.ac.uk
Dundee and Angus College	⚠ Case-by-case	Course dependent. Please email admissions@dundeeandangus.ac.uk
Forth Valley College	⚠ Case-by-case	Case by case basis. Please contact admissions@forthvalley.ac.uk
Glasgow Caledonian University	⚠ Case-by-case	Glasgow Caledonian Business School: This has been accepted in the past and might be accepted as the equivalent to a C at Higher, please confirm with GSBS Undergraduate Admissions at gsbsundergraduate@gcu.ac.uk School of Health and Life Sciences: Not accepted as a relevant higher if you are required to have an essay-based subject or if Higher English is listed as essential.
Glasgow School of Art	⚠ Case-by-case	Accept any SCQF Level 6 Qualification for entry to the Undergraduate programmes, however, does not make a direct comparison to specific Higher results. Strength of candidates Digital Portfolio submission will carry the most weight in any decision.
Robert Gordon University	⚠ Case-by-case	Can accept it in place of Higher English at grade C, however this is course dependent. Please contact admissions at admissions@rgu.ac.uk for more information.
University of Stirling	⚠ Case-by-case	Accepted as an entry to Primary and Secondary Education degrees. Not accepted as a Higher for entry to any other degree.
University of Strathclyde	⚠ Case-by-case	Dependent on department and degree: • Biomedical Sciences: Accepted as equivalent to a Higher English C • Faculty of Mathematics: Accepted as a C • Faculty of Engineering: Not accepted unless widening participation criteria apply. • Chemistry department: Not accepted • Faculty of Business: Not accepted • BA Primary Education: Not accepted • PGDE: Accepted as a C



Where Communications NC and Literature 1 units (SCQF level 6) are **NOT** usually accepted as an alternative to Higher English:

College	Accepted	More Information
University of Aberdeen	✗ No	Not accepted as an alternative to Higher English
Edinburgh College	✗ No	Not accepted
Edinburgh Napier University	✗ No	Not accepted as a Higher for entry to undergraduate programmes.
Heriot-Watt University	✗ No	Not accepted as a Higher.
Queen Margaret University	✗ No	Not accepted as a Higher
University of St Andrews	✗ No	Not accepted as a Higher, however could be seen to add value to an application if studied in combination with Highers.

Why Check?

Entry requirements may change, so individuals are encouraged to check with the relevant colleges or universities. This guide is for general information only and should not be used as a substitute for checking individual institutional requirements.

As part of widening access efforts, some institutions may offer greater flexibility with entry requirements or alternative routes onto programmes, contact them directly for guidance.

**Skills
Development
Scotland**

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SOURCES: Information gathered via direct contact with college and university admissions.

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To report any issues or make resource suggestions,
contact SDS National CIAG Team, email: cmsresource@sds.co.uk